

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

## AUGUST 2001



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development

*Note: The Workforce Observations replaces the Labor Market Review and the labor force press release sent to local media.*

### No Increase in Unemployment Rate

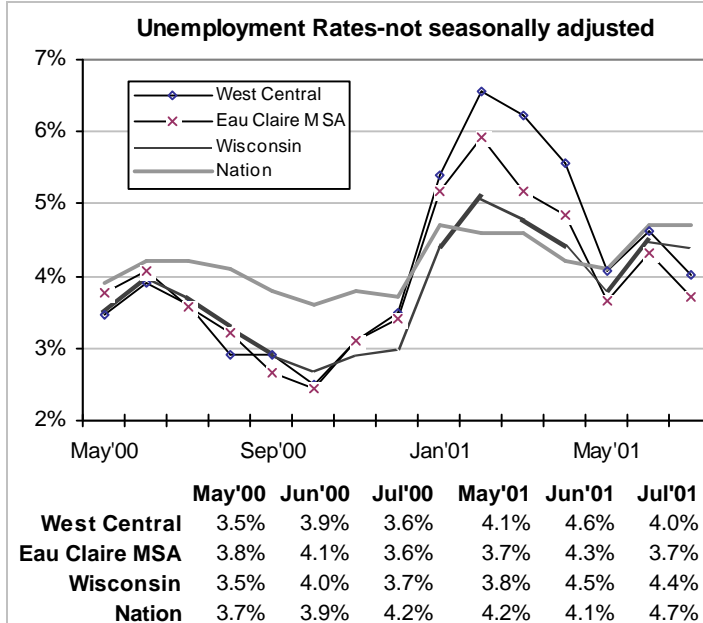
The Department of Workforce Development announced the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Eau Claire metropolitan area for July was 4.2 percent, the same rate reported for the area in June. One year ago the Eau Claire-Chippewa rate was 4.1 percent. The Eau Claire metro area rate was unchanged as eight of the state's eleven metro areas saw higher unemployment in July. The LaCrosse metro area also showed no change during the month and Kenosha reported a drop in unemployment. For the State of Wisconsin the seasonally adjusted rate in July was 4.4 percent, also unchanged from June but 0.7 percentage points higher than one year ago.

The unemployment rate, not seasonally adjusted, for the combined counties of the West Central region in July was 4.0 percent. The July rate, down from 4.6 percent in June, was higher than one year ago. The unadjusted rate in each of the nine regional counties declined from June to July but in seven of the counties the current rate is higher than one year earlier. Only Barron and Eau Claire counties were among the thirteen counties in the state that reported lower unemployment rates compared with July 2000.

In Barron County the July unemployment rate declined from 4.5 to 3.9 percent; in Clark it dropped from 6.7 to 6.1 percent; in Dunn, the rate declined from 3.6 to 3.2 percent; and, in Pepin, the rate dropped from 5.4 to 5.0 percent in July. Pierce County, where the unemployment rate went from 4.6 to 3.6 percent, had the largest unemployment rate reduction in the area. In Polk County, the rate dropped from 5.6 in June to 5.1 percent in July, and in St. Croix County the rate declined from 4.5 to 3.7 percent.

The unemployment rates in the region's counties declined a long with the number of jobs with regional employers. At first glance, that seems to be a contradiction in trends. The number of unemployed in all but Barron County increased in July, probably a result of the reduction in the number of jobs. In the total labor force in West Central Wisconsin in July of 235,800, nearly 226,400 residents were working and 9,400 were unemployed. The July labor force was smaller than in June.

Most of that reduction occurred with government agencies, especially state and local education facilities as workers were laid off for the summer months and dropped out of the labor force. This is a seasonal trend that first appeared in June but reached a climax in July. It is a key factor in the decline in the number of regional nonfarm jobs.



The reduction in jobs with education appears slowly in the employment estimates, however, because of the delayed payrolls with many school systems. In addition to the delay in reporting, many of the individuals who worked those jobs did not look for work and were no longer included in the labor force estimates.

However, the labor force estimates do not reflect all of this reduction in participation because other workers

entered the workforce. Most of the new participants found jobs, primarily for the summer months. The number of summer jobs is less than the number of vacated government jobs so the total number of nonfarm jobs declined.

Because there were new workers in the labor force, the number of employed in the area increased. With

the increase in employment came the reduction in unemployment rates.

Concurrent with the reduction in government employment was the increase in jobs with other regional employers and a subsequent rise in the number of employed in the region. In spite of the on-going lay offs from manufacturing firms, production employment increased in many of the area's counties.

The Eau Claire-Chippewa metro area report showed an increase of 200 production jobs in July. The increase in jobs was in the durable goods sector, a sector that hasn't reported a job increase since last summer. This is

also the first month to reflect a reportable increase in industrial machinery production (includes computer components) since October 1999. In Barron County employers added roughly 200 production jobs and in St. Croix County they added over 400 production jobs in July. Many of these jobs were related to the increase in work with area food processors and are temporary.

The unemployment rates in Barron and Eau Claire (not seasonally adjusted) were among only 13 counties statewide to show a decline from one year ago. The rate reduction in Barron County of 1.9 percentage points was the largest in the state.

July Estimates	Wisconsin	EC MSA	Barron	Clark	Dunn	Pepin	Pierce	Polk	St.Croix
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	3,128,300	86,100	25,100	17,400	22,000	3,400	21,800	24,400	35,500
Employed	2,990,500	82,900	24,200	16,300	21,300	3,300	21,000	23,200	34,200
Unemployed	137,800	3,200	1,000	1,100	700	200	800	1,200	1,300
Unemployment rate(%)	4.4%	3.7%	4.0%	6.1%	3.2%	5.0%	3.6%	5.1%	3.7%
<b>Total jobs, all industries**</b>	2,855,600	77,200	21,900	10,100	14,900	2,200	10,500	15,400	28,300
Construction & Mining	141,190	4,390	1,030	620	900	190	570	1,130	1,780
Manufacturing	601,200	11,990	7,120	3,400	2,060	170	1,410	4,680	7,590
Transportation & Public Util.	134,400	3,670	610	370	490	110	510	520	1,080
Wholesale Trade	140,390	3,330	590	600	670	290	360	380	600
Retail Trade	504,320	18,730	4,370	1,360	4,250	500	2,180	2,930	6,130
Finance,Ins,Real Estate	154,330	3,010	400	240	440	70	340	480	820
Services	797,130	21,380	3,950	1,610	2,750	430	2,240	3,070	6,850
Government	382,660	10,670	3,820	1,930	3,320	460	2,860	2,170	3,420
<b>Change from previous month</b>									
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	13,700	0	-300	0	0	-100	-200	-500	-300
Employed	17,500	500	-100	100	100	-100	0	-400	0
Unemployed	-3,800	-500	-200	-100	-100	0	-200	-200	-300
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.1%	-0.6%	-0.6%	-0.6%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.9%	-0.5%	-0.8%
<b>Total jobs, all industries**</b>	-26,600	-700	-600	-200	-300	-100	-200	-500	-100
Construction & Mining	3,900	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manufacturing	1,670	200	200	-40	0	0	-10	20	410
Transportation & Public Util.	-3,270	-80	-10	-10	0	-20	0	-10	-50
Wholesale Trade	950	-10	0	10	-10	0	60	0	-20
Retail Trade	-1,380	-190	-30	-10	-80	0	-60	-60	-90
Finance,Ins,Real Estate	1,000	20	-10	10	0	0	10	0	0
Services	760	-230	20	0	0	20	50	10	60
Government	-30,260	-710	-780	-160	-220	-90	-240	-540	-410
<b>Change from one year ago</b>									
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	124,400	3,000	100	1,200	1,000	200	700	1,600	1,400
Employed	99,000	2,800	600	1,000	900	100	600	1,100	900
Unemployed	25,400	200	-500	300	100	0	100	500	400
Unemployment rate(%)	0.7%	0.1%	-2.0%	1.3%	0.4%	1.1%	0.5%	1.9%	1.1%
<b>Total jobs, all industries**</b>	900	700	-200	200	100	0	0	300	1,200
Construction & Mining	100	500	100	0	0	0	0	100	100
Manufacturing	-24,750	-520	-390	90	-90	10	120	100	320
Transportation & Public Util.	2,080	80	20	10	30	0	-30	10	0
Wholesale Trade	-750	150	10	-30	-10	0	10	0	10
Retail Trade	3,440	290	10	10	40	10	60	120	330
Finance,Insurance,Real Estate	3,830	320	-40	-10	20	0	10	10	60
Services	14,990	-220	190	10	50	10	20	80	140
Government	1,960	80	-130	40	40	-30	-240	-150	170

\* Includes participants residing in area. \*\* Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers.

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: [WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI](http://WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI)

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